

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended by incorporating therein claim 2's requirement that the O-acylated glucose derivative prepared is O-acylated at least 50% in the 6 position.

Accordingly, this requirement has been deleted from claim 2.

Claim 28 has been rewritten in independent form.

Claims 24 and 26 have been amended in a non-limiting, grammatical manner to correct spelling errors.

Claims 1-31 are currently pending.

Initially, Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for his indication that claims 2, 10, 11, 17, 18, 24-29 and 31 contain allowable subject matter. As explained below, the amendments to the claims herein are intended to place the case into condition for allowance given the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter.

The Office Action rejected claims 1, 3-9, 12-16, 19-23 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. §103 as obvious over U.S. patent 5,498,708 ("Lalezari"). In view of the following comments, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Lalezari does not suggest preparing an O-acylated glucose derivative in which the O-acylated glucose derivative prepared is O-acylated at least 50% in the 6 position. The Examiner has recognized this deficiency at page 5 of the Office Action. Thus, one skilled in the art, seeking processes for preparing O-acylated glucose derivatives having the desired O-acylation characteristics, would not be led to the claimed processes by Lalezari. In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the §103 rejection.

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This is particularly true for claim 2 which requires the presence of specific glucose derivatives. Lalezari neither teaches nor suggests processes for preparing these derivatives having the required O-acylation characteristics. For this reason as well, claim 2 is free of the art and in condition for allowance.

Finally, claim 28, which has been rewritten in independent form, is in condition for allowance.

Applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance.

Prompt and favorable consideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Richard L. Treanor
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 36,379

Jeffrey B. McIntyre
Registration No. 36,867

Customer Number

22850

Tel #: (703) 413-3000
Fax #: (703) 413-2220